



Traffic Live cameras Traffic map Construction







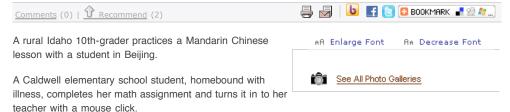
HOME NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS POLITICS OPINION ENTERTAINMENT LIFESTYLES OUTDOORS SPECIAL CONTENT CLASSIFIEDS SHOPPING SEARCH: All SEARCH Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH QUICK LINKS: Obituaries Crime Idaho Economy Thrifty Living Forums

Susan Patrick: Idaho deserves praise for offering classes over the Internet

READER'S VIEW VIRTUAL LEARNING

BY SUSAN PATRICK - Idaho Statesman

Published: 12/27/08



A Franklin County physics student watches a simulation created by NASA and discusses the formula and concept with her class over the Internet, while her teacher facilitates the discussion.

A struggling student retakes Algebra I with a readily available online teacher and tutor, allowing her to get help when she needs it and move at her own pace without being ostracized by other students or interrupting the lecture.

These are examples of how online learning is helping students attain academic achievement in ways never before possible. Online learning works for a diverse range of students and helps meet their individual needs. Students receive a customized, personalized education using a new delivery model that is preparing them for college and lifelong learning.

Idaho's education leaders should be applauded for their good work - Idaho is a national leader in online learning. In a recent national report, "Online Learning Policy and Practice Survey: A Survey of the States," Idaho ranked third out of 50 states for forward-thinking state policies supporting student opportunities through K-12 online learning. Idaho is one of 21 states to allow full-time online program options. The rankings reflect an effort to transform academic offerings to meet the needs of K-12 students.

By expanding online learning opportunities available to students, Idaho is a leader in providing students access to a world-class education. Currently across Idaho, more than 9,000 students are taking at least one supplemental, online class, while an additional 5,000+ students are enrolled in full-time virtual charter school programs.

Online learning has grown at 30 percent annually over the past 10 years in the United States. It is estimated that more than a million American K-12 students are enrolled in some form of online learning, and Clayton Christensen from Harvard Business School projects that 50 percent of all high school courses in America will be offered online by 2019.

Why is online learning catching on so quickly? Thirty-four percent of high schools in the United States do not offer Advanced Placement courses. Now, students can pursue these online. Every child learns differently, and online learning provides individualized instruction at a student's own pace. Students who are being bullied or tired of distractions in the classroom find that taking courses online allows them to focus academically and achieve more. Students missing required graduation credits because of scheduling conflicts or past failures can catch up by taking online courses and graduate on time. Online learning also can be an answer for students pursuing elite sports, artistic careers, or those who are homebound due to illness.





Ads by pulse 360

Waterbury News: 'Mom Earns \$7k/Mo At Home!' Read The Story of How A Waterbury Mom Turned \$1.97 Into \$7359.65 SarahsMoneyBlog.com

"Waterbury Mom Cures Her Wrinkles Forever!" Read How A Mom Combined 2 Products And Made Her Wrinkles Vanish.. www.kimsnewskin.com

Waterbury Man Makes \$10,000 A Month I got fired! I now earn more than my old boss. Find out how on my blog

Get listed here

But beyond meeting the immediate unique needs of specific students, online education may be essential for our nation's long-term success in this globally competitive world. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills has identified key skills such as technology literacy, self-directed learning, and problem-solving that are explicitly addressed through online learning. Meanwhile, nations such as China, Korea, Singapore, Mexico, Turkey and New Zealand have leapfrogged ahead of the United States to embrace online learning as an essential part of expanding access to their education systems.

So kudos to Idaho for its early embrace of the future of education! The challenge now is to make sure that embrace is broad enough to provide every student in Idaho access to online learning opportunities that ensure they are prepared for life after high school.

Susan Patrick is the president and chief executive officer of iNACOL, the International Association for K-12 Online Learning, a non-profit association representing the interests of practitioners, providers and students involved in online learning worldwide. She is the former director of the Office of Educational Technology at the U.S. Department of Education.



- Assessed home values plunge in Ada County
- 14-year-old Caldwell boy charged with first-degree murder of his father
- Tamarack Resort may get new owner
- Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson to President Obama: Leave car dealers alone
- Idaho Power faces pressure to go greener
- Men's Journal names Boise's North End one of the best neighborhoods in America
- Driver of ValleyRide vehicle that hit cyclist on leave
- HP to cut more workers
- Yellowstone workers killed problem wolf
- As a parent, are you concerned with 'sexting'?

Idaho Jobs Free Local Job Search! Find good paying Idaho jobs.

Employment-Service.org

idaho christian singles idaho christian singles Meet single Christians in your area.

Story Job Listings
Found: 237 jobs in your area. Make \$15 -\$100 / hour with bonuses.

Ads by Yahoo!

IdahoStatesman.com

SECTIONS: home | news | sports | business | politics | opinion | entertainment | lifestyles | outdoors | special content | classifieds | shopping CUSTOMER SERVICE: terms of service & privacy policy | about us | work for us | contact us | Newspapers in Education | Buy Photos

SUBSCRIBER SERVICES: subscribe now | pay your bill | vacation stop

